

Press release

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British Red Cross sends emergency sanitation kit to Haiti

The British Red Cross are sending out an emergency hygiene team with urgently needed sanitation equipment for people living in temporary shelters.

The team of four are bringing 200 emergency latrines, a mini JCB digger and other essential hygiene kit. This 'mass sanitation module' is able to deal with the sanitation needs of up to 20,000 people in the aftermath of an emergency.

Sharon Reader (30) from Shepherds Bush, London is going out with the team as a support officer. She said:

"With so many thousands of people living out in the open air, sanitation becomes absolutely paramount to prevent the spread of disease. It's important to get good, safe latrines built for public health reasons, and to give people some dignity in this desperate situation. We will also be doing hygiene promotion work to help people keep clean and safe. The work of our team will be absolutely vital for making sure survivors, who have already been through so much, continue to stay healthy."

The team, who between them have experience of the China earthquake and last year's earthquake in Indonesia, are flying out tomorrow [21/1/10] from London, and their equipment will be sent from East Midlands airport on Friday.

The team comprises Sharon Reader (30, London, originally from Glasgow), Richard Lorenz and nurse Elizabeth Hood (54, Northumberland). Team leader Peter Pearce, 57, is already in Dominican Republic with the British Red Cross logistics team and will join them in Haiti. Peter has previously worked Goma, Kenya, the Bam Earthquake in Iran, and last year's earthquake in Indonesia.

GlaxoSmithKline has made a donation of £250,000 to support the deployment team and their specialist equipment. The company previously supported the deployment of the Mass Sanitation Module to Zimbabwe in December 2008 in response to the cholera outbreak.

To make a donation to the DEC Haiti appeal visit www.dec.org.uk or call 0370 60 60 900, donate over the counter at any post office or high street bank, or send a cheque made payable to 'DEC Haiti Earthquake Appeal' to 'PO Box 999, London, EC3A 3AA'.

Examples of what donations will go to include:

- £25 will supply a kit of household essentials.
- £50 buys a food pack to feed a family for a fortnight.
- £100 provides temporary shelter for two families.

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Notes to Editors

Please find attached photographs of Sharon Reader and Peter Pearce in Indonesia in 2009.

For more information on the British Red Cross recovery operations, please visit www.redcross.org.uk

The British Red Cross helps people in crisis, wherever and wherever they are. We are part of a global voluntary network, responding to conflicts, natural disasters and individual emergencies. We enable vulnerable people in the UK and abroad to prepare for and withstand emergencies in their own communities. And when the crisis is over, we help them to recover and move on with their lives.